

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PREDICTED FOR THE PROJECT APE

3.1 Pre-contact Period

The following is a summary of the detailed information regarding pre-contact archaeological potential for the S.R. 54 Improvements project area as it directly relates to the stormwater management swales (Gundy and Sams 2003a, 2003b). According to the predictive modeling accomplished by Custer (n.d.) for pre-contact period archaeological resources in Delaware, the proposed stormwater management swales are located within low probability areas. Review of the Delaware archaeological site files did not yield any previously recorded pre-contact period archaeological sites within or adjacent to the proposed stormwater management swale locations. Reviews of several previously completed cultural resource management project reports, pertinent to the area, also indicate that no pre-contact period archaeological sites have been identified within the vicinity of the S.R. 54 stormwater management swale locations.

Based on the absence of previously identified pre-contact period archaeological sites and specific known Native American villages or trails in the general vicinity of the stormwater management swales, and the disturbed nature of and constricted areal size of the proposed swales, they are considered to have a low probability to contain pre-contact period archaeological sites. The presence of poorly drained soils within the stormwater management swale areas also supports a determination of low probability.

3.2 Historic Period

The following is a summary of the information contained in Gundy and Sams (2003a, 2003b) as it applies to the stormwater management swale locations, and a discussion of the potential for those locations to contain historic period archaeological sites. The majority of historic period archaeological sites identified for the area are related to agricultural activities (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:109-110, 112). Based on several predictive models used to reconstruct historic settlement patterns in the area surrounding the S.R. 54 Improvements project area, Catts *et al.* (1992:110) have determined that historic period sites dating from as early as A.D. 1630 to A.D. 1730 are possible. Review of the Delaware archaeological site files did not yield any previously recorded historic period archaeological sites within the proposed stormwater management swale locations.

Historic maps also indicate that the route of S.R. 54 has not changed appreciably throughout the historic period, but that development immediately adjacent to the roadway has increased (Beers 1868; Delaware State Highway Department 1941; War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army 1946, 1948). Based on the absence of previously identified historic period archaeological sites located within, and lack of structures associated with, the stormwater management swales, and the indications that this area has been rural throughout the historic period, the potential stormwater management swale locations have only a low probability to contain historic period archaeological resources. Due to the long-term rural nature of the project APE, and based on the numbers of different types of previously identified historic period archaeological sites located within Sussex County, if historic period archaeological remains are identified, they will likely be unintentional litter associated with rural agricultural activities, ditch construction, and/or roadway travel.